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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689

FIELD DIARY

Mr. *Vernon Bailey*

*New Mexico, Carlisle.*

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April 29 Took the Ford Truck with  
Dana Lee and Jim White and went  
to Daughters Canyon, around by Black  
River and Washington's ranch, through  
20 miles of prairie dog and jack  
rabbit country.

Climbed up to first right hand  
cave, about 600 feet from bottom of  
Canyon up very steep and rough slope,  
on east side of canyon near top of  
wall, probably 400 feet to real top!

A large open tunnel with arched  
doorway half full of debris.  
Cave runs back about 300 feet and is  
100 wide and about as high.  
Is some light to the back end.

Some old but a bird quave but  
none of importance or recent deposit.  
Owls, swallows, Sayornis and Canyon  
wrens nesting in roof.

Ring tail + neotoma + mouse tracks common

Considerable signs of ancient habitation  
smoked walls and old fire material.  
A hundred Indians could have lived  
in it comfortably all winter and  
the big mescal pits at the point  
of the ridge below show a rather  
large Indian population.

There are many drip places with  
plenty of water to be caught in dishes.  
Old cradled bones show where game  
had been used. The cave is  
a wonderful stronghold, where the  
whole valley can be watched and  
a few men could keep back an army  
or could escape to the top of  
the cliffs above. Food is  
abundant in the form of heliogrilla  
& sotol and both are said to contain  
much oil and are & berries must  
have been numerous.

In afternoon went up to the  
Guano cave <sup>a mile</sup> above the goat  
ranch on east side of east arm  
of Canyon but found nothing new  
since I was there before. It is only  
100 feet above the canyon bottom  
easily accessible, larger but of  
the same great tunnel form,  
probably 1000 feet long and 100  
wide and high. A herd of goats  
have been occupying it for years  
as a winter resort, just as  
Mountain sheep & Indians  
did 1000 years ago. There is  
plenty of water in it, and some  
large stalactites and stalagmites but  
nothing of great beauty. It was  
dark and the light barely reaches  
the back end tho the front half is  
fairly light. Ring tails, owls,  
Saxpines, rats & mice live here

Another cave between the two on the east side of Slaughter Canyon is very deep and dangerous, going down some 200 feet deep in the side of the Canyon wall & only entered by ropes & ladders. Considerable quano has been taken out of it but one man was killed in it and then abandoned.

but 3 dead ingtails show that poison is kept out to kill ants & foxes & mountain lions.

The canyon walls are high and rough and picturesque about it and afford ideal big game and much deer range.

Between these

A few car loads of quano were taken out a dozen years ago but no equipment, any cables and machinery or work.

There is no fresh quano except of the goats, etc. The deer quano is large and may be of some larger species of goat and not of Mychivornas.

Most of the goats that come to water at the goat ranch just below over Ephraim.



April 30. Went up the west side of  
Slaughter Canyon about 2 miles  
to the first cave and climbed  
400 feet on its south side up an  
old burrow trail to a most  
interesting cave where the bigboms  
still live and that should be called  
Bigbom Cave or Cavern.

It is about halfway up the  
wall of a wonderfully picturesque  
canyon, ideal range for bigboms  
& mule deer and well tracked up by  
both. Lots of fresh deer tracks and  
fresh beds were seen along the  
zigzag trail but when we entered  
the cave through a small door on  
the east side of a high rocky  
ridge and looked out through the  
great arched way on our level to  
the west and saw the most picturesque  
cave ~~above~~ and surroundings ever

saw we forgot about the mule deer  
for there were big horn trails entering  
the cave door, fresh big horn tracks  
in the cave and well worn trails  
back to the water pool at the lake.  
The cave measured 400 feet in  
length, about 100 feet wide and  
75 feet for an average height.  
It has a fairly level floor with  
some piles of debris and some  
stalagmite formations built up and  
a rough slope of yellow blocks of  
limestone on one side.  
There are numerous stalactites and  
the whole effect is of a great  
palace of the cave dwellings of the  
dawn of civilization. A dim light  
penetrates to the far end but there are  
dark corners and under the broken rocks  
retreats for many of the smaller animals.  
A lower level extends down to the  
north with several rooms below but

Not of special interest and a hidden opening on the slope west of the great door runs down 30 or 40 feet into the rocks.

The great door is a garden of flowering trees and shrubs well into the mouth of the cave and the outlook is a wonderful picture of cliffs and terraces, too steep and rough for any domestic stock to ever spail.

Racks and trails and beds of pellets of mountain sheep show this cave to be the winter resort of a considerable number but also a watering place during the year. The sheep quans is deep in places and very old. parts of two <sup>old</sup> skulls and some other bones show that they have been killed here and the lack of any Indian signs of life suggest that it was left to the Indians as a convenient place to come to when needed. It is a perfect sheep trap.



There are great abundance of tracks of  
the great cutthroat trout, a few fox  
tracks, and in the lower part of the  
river bear tracks in it. Both  
sheep and bear bones were found  
and probably bear have been hunted  
here in recent years. Of course  
mountain lions and bobcats have  
been here but both are now scarce.  
Wood rats, mice & small tracks are  
numerous in dusty places.

The bird fauna is so less  
abundant and interesting. A colony  
of white throated swifts breed in a  
long crack in the roof of the cave  
and some 20 or 30 pairs of  
this species and a few pairs of  
winged geese were seen.  
About 3 car loads of bird eggs  
was taken out. The eggs were  
packed down in barrels.

Much of it has been burned or mixed  
with bat and bighorn quaws.  
Half a dozen of the swifts were circling  
and shrieking through the cave and  
occasionally disappearing in the  
crack overhead but the colony has  
not yet returned. They make a  
wonderful display, cutting out and in  
through the great cave doors.

A pair of cliff swallows have a  
nest in a hole in the roof, a  
natural cavity where no mud is  
needed. *Sayornis sayi* have one  
nest, at least, in the roof of the cave  
and a pair of Canyon wrens nest  
in the doorway. There is a  
beautiful last years hummer nest  
on a mulberry twig well back  
in the mouth of the cave and  
*Trochilus alexandri* was seen below  
Great horned owls nest and roost and

Cave in the cave and gulp up their pellets under every ledge and perching place in the cave. There were some of the tall stalagmites the ground is strewn with bones of all the small rodents, many birds and reptiles of the vicinity and a gallon can was filled with these for more careful examination. There are still bushels of bones lying on the ground for more extended study of future naturalists.

Several quail and shells were picked up with the bones, but not a part of the owl food.

Took many photographs of cave and plants and general views of the canyon.

Water is scarce in the canyon but is found in most of the caves and in several springs in each canyon or on the slopes. Returned to Carlsbad Cave in P.M.

May 1. Packed up and shipped a lot of specimens and went to Carlsbad in P.M. to get them off.

May 2 - Went cave hunting with Carl Livingston and Bob Dow, first to a cave in top of limestone hill a mile NW of Santa Fe Tank, where I shot *Urotaenia* in 1901 as they came to water from this cave. Found a thousand, I should guess, hanging to the roof in a great mass matted together in back end of cave. Caught a few but left them for a photograph. Caught a young Diamond back rattlesnake in cave.

-Visited a rattlesnake den near there where 19 were killed a year ago as they were lying about the entrance of a low cave opening in the limestone ledge.

### Birds

Saw a fine Golden Eagle  
Red tail Hawks nesting  
Swainson Hawks, a pair on pines  
Corvus cryptoleucus, common in pairs.  
Callipepla squamata, a few pairs seen.  
Cliff swallows, nesting in ~~Dark~~ Dark Canyon,  
Burrowing owl, 1 seen  
Bubo, bones under nests in caves.  
Lanius, common on pines  
Catherpes mexicanus, abundant in flocks  
up to 100, largely black throats.  
Sturnus perisoreus, common in canyon.  
Scissor-tail, said to breed at  
-Livingston Ranch, 35 miles east of Carlsbad.

Went up Dark Canyon and into  
two caves in the canyon wall  
where Indians had lived and  
had comfortable quarters. Found  
a few bits of old bones of game and  
men and lots of small bones from  
Owl pellets. Both caves had secret  
chambers that should be carefully  
excavated. Many old vertical  
pits and graving holes seen.  
Plenty of Lechuguilla and Yucca and  
Mesquite and Indian Tobacco and  
good soil for raising corn and  
squashes! Stacks of Ocotillo and  
Cactus and other desert types of  
vegetation of Lower Sonoran zone.  
Rained in night and again after  
noon.  
Returned to Carlsbad Cave in  
evening.



May 3. Came to town and out to the bat cave in Bob Dow's Pasture  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of town and half a mile west of where I shot *Myotis evotis* in 1901. Used flashlight powder in a blow flare while Mr. Lee took moving pictures of the bats in a mass and as they flew from the low ceiling of the cave. Took snap-shots also but they are not likely to be good. I think 1000 bats would be a fair estimate of the number in the cave & they seem to be all *Evotis*. Caught a bag full alive.

The rains yesterday have brought out the lizards more than any time before. Saw two *Crotaphytus wislizeni* many *Holbrookia*s & a small black *Sceloporus*.

*Xerocryptus canescens* ~~is~~ in bloom the first seen.

May 4 88, remained at camp  
writing up reports, packing specimens  
and getting ready to go home.  
Mostly warm and clear but  
no real hot days.

Suffering from grip or some kind  
of fever and not able to do much work.

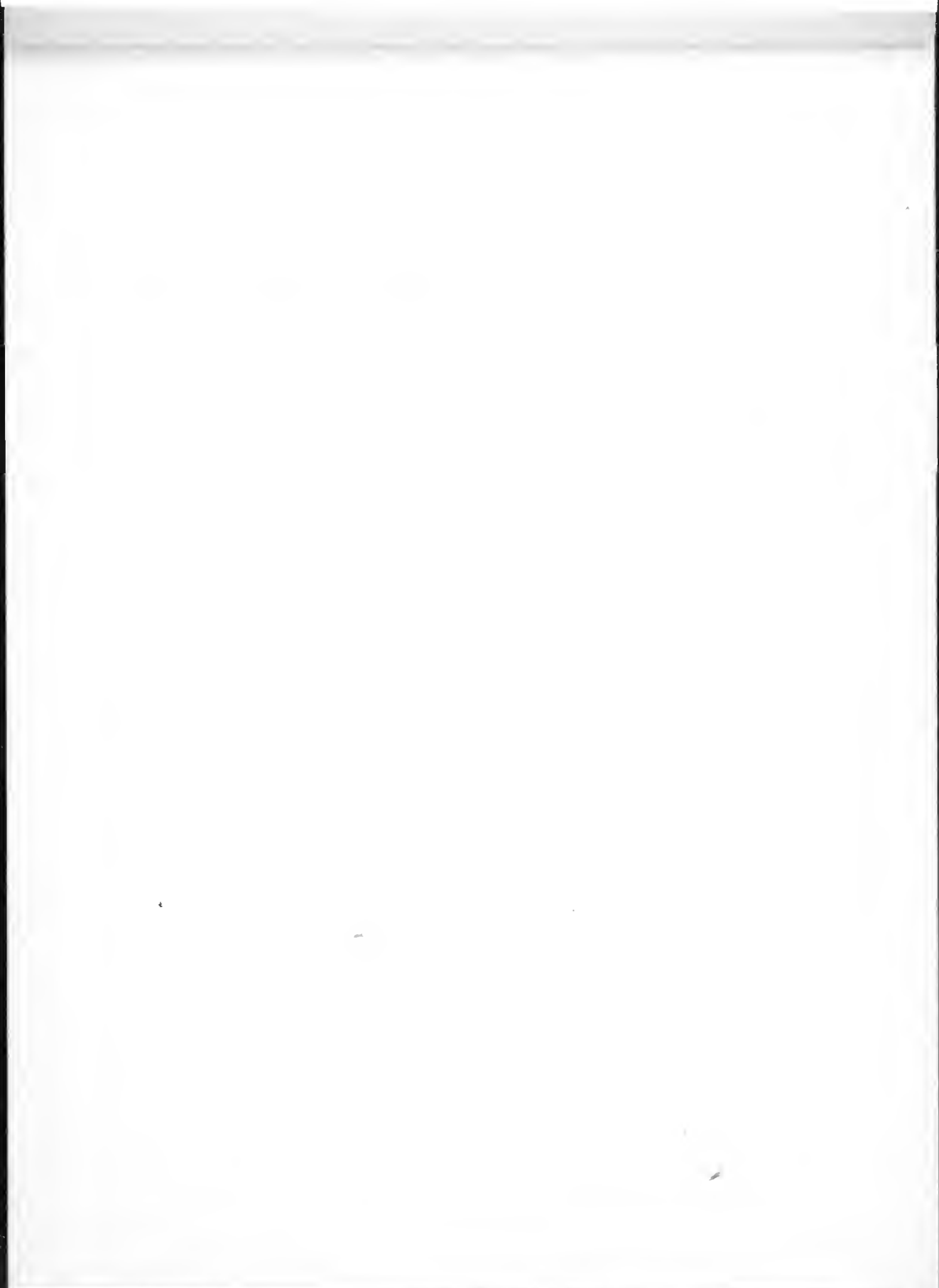
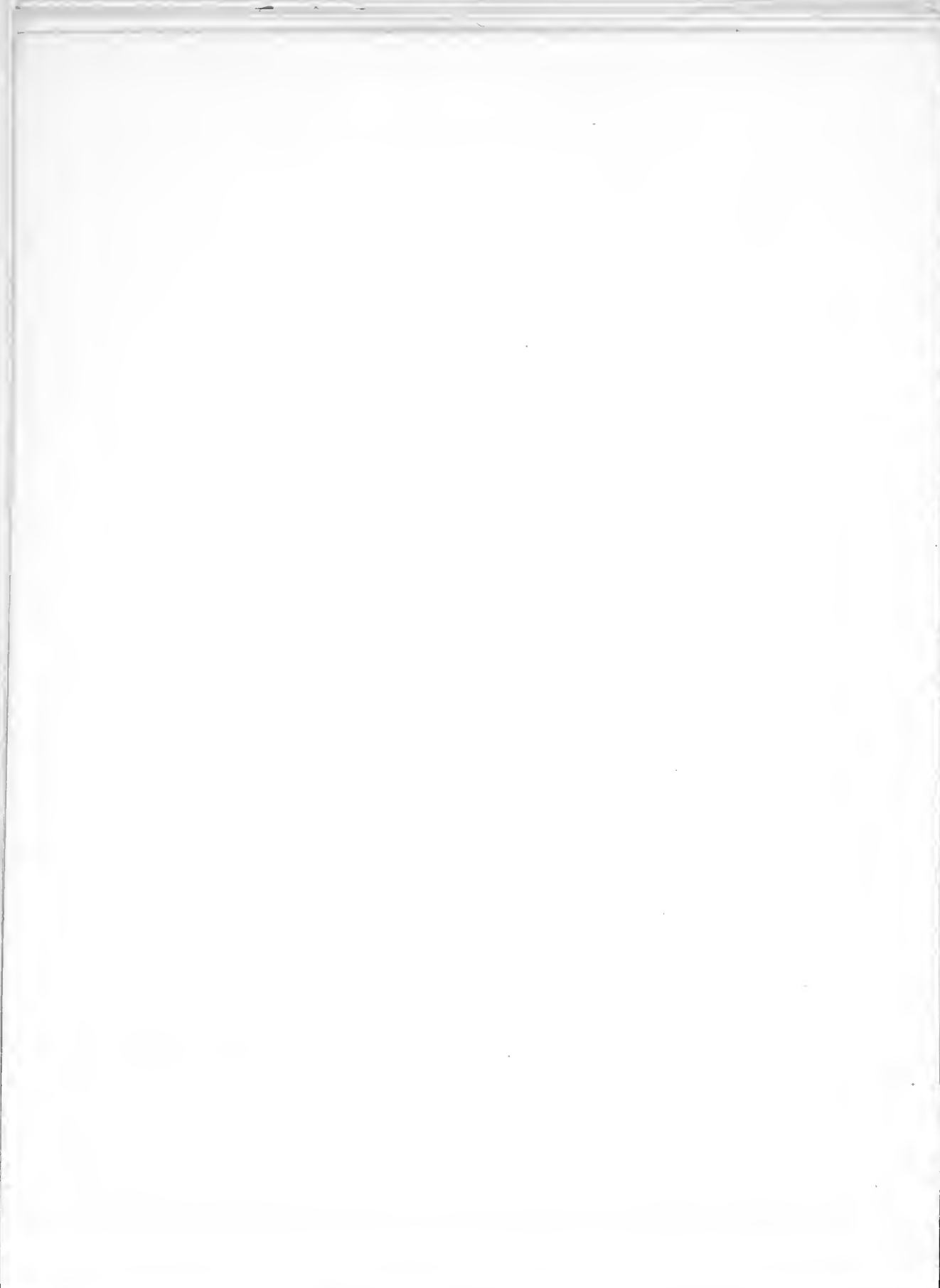
May 9, Came to Carlisburg in  
morning and got ready to leave  
tomorrow

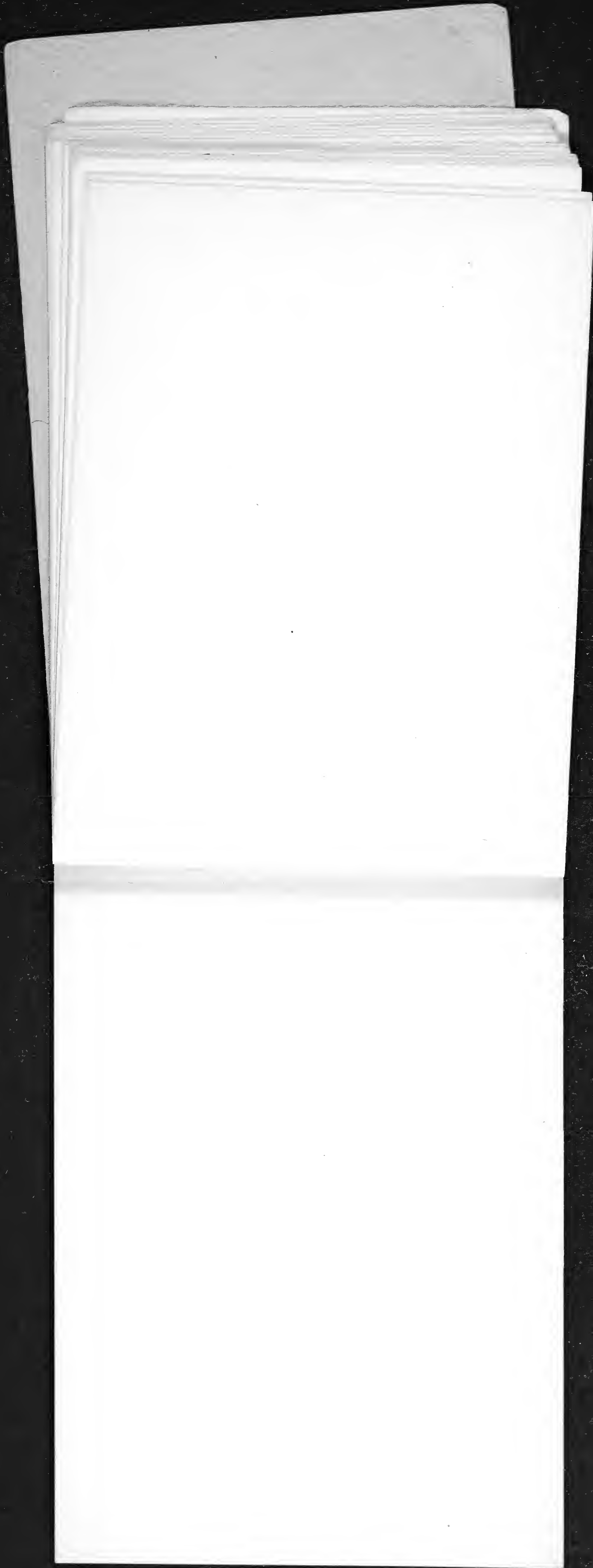
May 10, Took 7:30 train north  
to Clovis where I caught train  
to Chicago next morning -

May 11, all day through Texas, Oklahoma  
and into southern Kansas.

May 12, Reached Chicago 7:45  
PM and transferred to Pa. depot  
& left there 11:30 PM for Pittsburg.

May 13, Left Pittsburg in morning  
and arrived in Washington  
10:13 PM. on time.







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